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EXAMINER				
DULANEY, BENJAMIN O				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

patentdocket@oblon.com

oblonpat@oblon.com

jgardner@oblon.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/668,360

Applicant(s)

OHYAMA ET AL.

Examiner

BENJAMIN O. DULANEY

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 June 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 24-52 and 54 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 24-52 and 54 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 6/4/09 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding applicant's argument that adding color correction after scanning to Koguchi changes the principle operation and is therefore an impermissible combination, examiner disagrees. Color correction is performed in Koguchi after a destination device is identified, therefore it is not a change in the principle operation it is merely a question of timing. Koguchi holds off on performing color correction because, depending upon the device the data is being transferred to; the operation might be redundant therefore saving the sending device in Koguchi some processing. However this process and reasoning does not apply to Koguchi printing data with the printer of figure 2, item 16, which is the printer that would be used to satisfy the claim language. Therefore modifying the local device of figure 2 to incorporate color conversion after scanning would not effect the principle operations of Koguchi, indeed data scanned and destined to be transmitted would not be affected by the combination at all.

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 24, 47 and 54 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection with U.S. patent application publication 2002/0149784 by Levin et al.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

- 1) Claims 24-27, 29, 30, 32-36, 38, 43, 45-50, 52 and 54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent application publication 2002/0141380 by Koguchi, and further in view of U.S. patent application publication 2002/0149784 by Levin et al.
- 2) Regarding claim 24, Koguchi teaches an image processing apparatus comprising: a memory that stores the image data in a first format (paragraph 76); a format converter that converts the first format of the image data stored to a second format that is acceptable to an external device based on predetermined conditions (paragraph 101); a connecting unit that connects with a network, wherein the external device is connected to the network; and a transmitter that transmits the image data in the second format to the external device via the connection unit (paragraph 102).

Koguchi does not specifically teach storing data following scanning correction which includes conversion from red, green, and blue (RGB) to cyan, magenta, yellow, and black (CMYK); and a printer engine that forms an image on a recording medium based on the stored image data without performing color conversion.

Levin teaches storing data following scanning correction which includes conversion from red, green, and blue (RGB) to cyan, magenta, yellow, and black (CMYK) (figure 2, item 60; paragraph 15; color conversion is front-end processing); and a printer engine that forms an image on a recording medium based on the stored image data without performing color conversion (figure 2b, item 90; printing is performed without further color conversion).

Koguchi and Levin are combinable because they are both from the data formatting field of endeavor.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Koguchi with Levin to add converting from RGB to CMYK before storing. The motivation for doing so would have been to prepare data for printing. Therefore it would have been obvious to combine Koguchi and Levin to obtain the invention as specified by claim 24.

3) Regarding claim 25, Koguchi teaches the image processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an image reader that reads an image on a document to thereby acquire the image data corresponding to the image (paragraph 75).

4) Regarding claims 26 and 48, Koguchi teaches the image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the second format is a general format that is acceptable to a general information processing unit (figure 8; PDF is a general format).

5) Regarding claims 27 and 49, Koguchi teaches the image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the format converter includes a

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compressor that compresses the image data stored and an expander that expands the image data compressed, and the format converter converts the first format of the image data expanded to the second format (figure 8; converting to and from JPEG performs expansion and compression).

6) Regarding claims 29 and 50, Koguchi teaches the image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the format converter includes a resolution converter that converts resolution of the image data stored to a predetermined value, and the format converter converts the first format of the image data resolution converted to the second format (paragraph 83).

7) Regarding claim 30, Koguchi teaches the image processing apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising a resolution setting unit that sets the predetermined value (paragraph 83).

8) Regarding claim 32, Koguchi teaches the image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the format converter converts the first format of the image data stored to the second format based on any one or more of an attribute of the image data stored and information obtained from the external device (paragraph 83).

9) Regarding claim 33, Koguchi teaches the image processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an image forming unit that forms an image on a recording medium based on the image data stored, wherein the format converter converts the first format of the image data stored to a third format that is acceptable to the image forming unit (paragraph 103; figure 8; multiple formats are listed that can be continually converted from/to).

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10) Regarding claim 34, Koguchi teaches the image processing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the predetermined conditions are set based on information obtained from the external device (paragraph 83).

11) Regarding claim 35, Koguchi teaches the image processing apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising an operating unit that specifies the predetermined conditions and the external device (paragraph 72-75).

12) Regarding claim 36, Koguchi teaches the image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image data in the first format is an image data in a predetermined color-space, and the image data in the second format is an image data in monochrome (paragraph 75 and 83).

13) Regarding claim 38, Koguchi teaches the image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the format converter includes a filter that filters the image data stored, and the format converter converts the first format of the image data filtered to the second format (paragraph 101; and format/resolution/color change would involve "filtering" the data into a different form of the data).

14) Regarding claim 43 and 52, Koguchi teaches the image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the format converter includes a color correction unit that carries out color correction of the image data stored, and the format converter converts the first format of the image data color corrected to the second format (paragraph 101; changing from color to monochromatic is a color correction).

15) Regarding claim 45, Koguchi teaches the image processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising: an image quality mode setting unit that

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sets an image quality mode of the image data that is to be stored in the memory; and a color correction parameter changer that changes a color correction parameter for the color correction according to the set image quality mode (paragraph 83).

16) Regarding claim 46, Koguchi teaches the image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the format converter further includes a format setting unit that specifies the second format (paragraph 83).

17) Regarding claims 47 and 54, Koguchi teaches a method of processing image data, comprising: reading an image on a document to thereby acquire image data corresponding to the image (paragraph 74), the image data being in a first format; storing the image data acquired (paragraph 76); converting the first format of the image data stored to a second format that is acceptable to an external device (paragraph 101); and transmitting the image data in the second format to the external device (paragraph 102).

Koguchi does not specifically teach storing data following scanning correction which includes conversion from red, green, and blue (RGB) to cyan, magenta, yellow, and black (CMYK); and forming an image on a recording medium based on the stored image data without performing color conversion.

Levin teaches storing data following scanning correction which includes conversion from red, green, and blue (RGB) to cyan, magenta, yellow, and black (CMYK) (figure 2, item 60; paragraph 15; color conversion is front-end processing); and forming an image on a recording medium based on the stored

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image data without performing color conversion (figure 2b, item 90; printing is performed without further color conversion).

Koguchi and Levin are combinable because they are both from the data formatting field of endeavor.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Koguchi with Levin to add converting from RGB to CMYK before storing. The motivation for doing so would have been to prepare data for printing. Therefore it would have been obvious to combine Koguchi and Levin to obtain the invention as specified by claims 47 and 54.

18) Claims 28, 31, 39-42, 44 and 51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent application publication 2002/0141380 by Koguchi, and further in view of U.S. patent application publication 2002/0149784 by Levin et al., and further in view of U.S. patent 7,352,488 by Ben-Chorin et al.

19) Regarding claim 28, Koguchi does not specifically teach the image processing apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the format converter includes a multinary converter that increases number of gradations of the image data stored to thereby obtain multinary image data, and the format converter converts the first format of the multinary image data to the second format.

Ben-Chorin teaches the image processing apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the format converter includes a multinary converter that increases number of gradations of the image data stored to thereby obtain multinary image

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data, and the format converter converts the first format of the multinary image data to the second format (column 18, lines 8-10).

Koguchi and Ben-Chorin are combinable because they are both from the data formatting field of endeavor.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Koguchi with Ben-Chorin to add increasing gradations. The motivation for doing so would have been to better spectrally match colors for images to be printed (column 6, lines 52-53). Therefore it would have been obvious to combine Koguchi and Ben-Chorin to obtain the invention as specified by claim 28.

20) Regarding claim 31, Koguchi does not specifically teach the image processing apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the image data stored is color data and the format converter includes a color-space converter that converts color-space of the image data, and the format converter converts the first format of the image data color-space converted to the second format.

Ben-Chorin teaches the image processing apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the image data stored is color data and the format converter includes a color-space converter that converts color-space of the image data, and the format converter converts the first format of the image data color-space converted to the second format (Column 5, lines 55-65).

Koguchi and Ben-Chorin are combinable because they are both from the data formatting field of endeavor.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Koguchi with Ben-Chorin to add color-space conversions. The motivation for doing so would have been to better spectrally match colors for images to be printed (column 6, lines 52-53). Therefore it would have been obvious to combine Koguchi and Ben-Chorin to obtain the invention as specified by claim 31.

21) Regarding claim 39, Koguchi does not specifically teach the image processing apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the format converter includes a half-tone processor that converts a gradation of the image data stored, and the format converter converts the first format of the image data gradation converted to the second format

Ben-Chorin teaches the image processing apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the format converter includes a half-tone processor that converts a gradation of the image data stored, and the format converter converts the first format of the image data gradation converted to the second format (Column 2, lines 54-55).

Koguchi and Ben-Chorin are combinable because they are both from the data formatting field of endeavor.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Koguchi with Ben-Chorin to add halftoning. The motivation for doing so would have been to better spectrally match colors for images to be printed (column 6, lines 52-53). Therefore it would

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have been obvious to combine Koguchi and Ben-Chorin to obtain the invention as specified by claim 39.

22) Regarding claim 40, Koguchi does not specifically teach the image processing apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the image data stored is colored, and the format converter includes a color-gray converter that converts a the colored image data into grey, and the format converter converts the first format of the grey image data to the second format.

Ben-Chorin teaches the image processing apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the image data stored is colored, and the format converter includes a color-gray converter that converts a the colored image data into grey, and the format converter converts the first format of the grey image data to the second format (column 3, lines 30-36).

Koguchi and Ben-Chorin are combinable because they are both from the data formatting field of endeavor.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Koguchi with Ben-Chorin to add gray levels. The motivation for doing so would have been to better spectrally match colors for images to be printed (column 6, lines 52-53). Therefore it would have been obvious to combine Koguchi and Ben-Chorin to obtain the invention as specified by claim 40.

23) Regarding claims 41 and 51, Koguchi does not specifically teach the image processing apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the format converter includes a gamma correction unit that carries out gamma correction of the image

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data stored based on predetermined gamma correction data, and the format converter converts the first format of the image data gamma corrected to the second format.

Ben-Chorin teaches the image processing apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the format converter includes a gamma correction unit that carries out gamma correction of the image data stored based on predetermined gamma correction data, and the format converter converts the first format of the image data gamma corrected to the second format (column 20, lines 35-55).

Koguchi and Ben-Chorin are combinable because they are both from the data formatting field of endeavor.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Koguchi with Ben-Chorin to add gamma correction. The motivation for doing so would have been to better spectrally match colors for images to be printed (column 6, lines 52-53). Therefore it would have been obvious to combine Koguchi and Ben-Chorin to obtain the invention as specified by claims 41 and 51.

24) Regarding claim 42, Koguchi does not specifically teach the image processing apparatus according to claim 41, further comprising a gamma value setting unit that sets the gamma correction data.

Ben-Chorin teaches the image processing apparatus according to claim 41, further comprising a gamma value setting unit that sets the gamma correction data (column 20, lines 35-55).

Koguchi and Ben-Chorin are combinable because they are both from the data formatting field of endeavor.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Koguchi with Ben-Chorin to add gamma correction. The motivation for doing so would have been to better spectrally match colors for images to be printed (column 6, lines 52-53). Therefore it would have been obvious to combine Koguchi and Ben-Chorin to obtain the invention as specified by claim 42.

25) Regarding claim 44, Koguchi does not specifically teach the image processing apparatus according to claim 43, wherein the image data is in CMYK color model, and the color correction includes conversion of the image data in the CMYK color model to an image data in RGB color model.

Ben-Chorin teaches the image processing apparatus according to claim 43, wherein the image data is in CMYK color model, and the color correction includes conversion of the image data in the CMYK color model to an image data in RGB color model (Column 5, lines 55-65).

Koguchi and Ben-Chorin are combinable because they are both from the data formatting field of endeavor.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Koguchi with Ben-Chorin to add CMYK to RGB conversion. The motivation for doing so would have been to better spectrally match colors for images to be printed (column 6, lines 52-53).

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Therefore it would have been obvious to combine Koguchi and Ben-Chorin to obtain the invention as specified by claim 44.

26) Claim 37 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent application publication 2002/0141380 by Koguchi, and further in view of U.S. patent application publication 2002/0149784 by Levin et al., and further in view of U.S. patent 6,069,706 by Kajita et al.

Regarding claim 37, Koguchi does not specifically teach the image processing apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the format converter includes a binary converter that converts the image data stored into binary image data, and the format converter converts the first format of the binary image data to the second format.

Kajita teaches the image processing apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the format converter includes a binary converter that converts the image data stored into binary image data, and the format converter converts the first format of the binary image data to the second format (column 5, lines 59-67).

Koguchi and Kajita are combinable because they are both from the data formatting field of endeavor.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Koguchi with Kajita to add binary conversion. The motivation for doing so would have been to better spectrally match colors for images to be printed. Therefore it would have been obvious to combine Koguchi and Kajita to obtain the invention as specified by claim 37.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BENJAMIN O. DULANEY whose telephone number is (571)272-2874. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (10am - 6pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Moore can be reached on (571)272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Benjamin O Dulaney/
Examiner, Art Unit 2625

Art Unit: 2625

/Twyler L. Haskins/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625